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Statistical Commission
Thirty-eighth session
27 February-2 March 2007
Item 4 (h) of the provisional agenda*
Items for information: Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report summarizes the main conclusions of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, held in New York on 6 March 2006 and in Montreal, Canada, on 4 and 5 September 2006, respectively. The Statistical Commission may wish to take into account the views of the Committee in its discussions under relevant agenda items.

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I. Introduction

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2. In 2006, CCSA, chaired by the International Labour Organization, held two sessions: its seventh session in New York on 6 March 2006, and its eighth session in Montreal, Canada, on 4 and 5 September 2006 (see annex for participants).

II. Work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

A. International quality assurance frameworks

3. At its seventh session, Eurostat reported the first results of the surveys of quality frameworks and quality reporting mechanisms. The full report, by Eurostat, with the results and recommendations for future work, was presented at the eighth session in September 2006. The Committee discussed the proposed action plan for the second phase of the project. It was agreed that the Committee would not formally adopt one common framework for use by all agencies for quality assurance, but Eurostat would continue to prepare guidelines on the development of a quality assurance framework for the use of those agencies wishing to adopt one. The guidelines would include examples of best practices and focus on implementation.

B. Implementation of the Principles for statistical activities in international organizations

4. At its eighth session, the Committee reviewed and discussed the proposals on ways to assess the implementation of the Principles presented by the United Nations Statistics Division. It agreed on the following: (a) all members who are committed to do so should review their practices in the light of the Principles and provide a self-assessment of their implementation using a common template. A report based on the agencies' self-assessment will be presented at the 2008 session of the Statistical Commission; (b) the Committee will not invite countries to assess agencies' compliance with the Principles, although countries are obviously welcome to initiate the assessment and table-specific issues related to the Principles and their implementation; (c) agencies will be able to use a peer review mechanism, in which an agency volunteers to have its practices reviewed by other members; and (d) review of agencies' practices will be a standing item in the agenda of the

Committee at every session, although there will be no formal reconciliation mechanisms.

5. The Committee further agreed to continue the work already undertaken on the three priority areas for action, namely: (a) the development of quality assurance frameworks; (b) Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX); and (c) training initiatives for the staff of international organizations. The Principles were also presented to the High-level Committee on Programmes at its meeting in September 2006 and will be brought to the attention of agencies' senior management and subregional organizations.

C. Statistical training for the staff of international agencies

6. The proposed action plan on training in statistics for the staff of international organizations, prepared by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was discussed at the seventh session of the Committee. At its eighth session, the Committee reviewed progress made and discussed the objectives and action plan of the newly developed CCSA training website, developed by IMF and the United Nations Statistics Division. Agencies were encouraged to provide and regularly update the information on courses offered by their organization and to consult the website to identify suitable courses for their own staff.

D. Implementation plan of SDMX

7. At the seventh session of the Committee, the SDMX sponsors reported that version 2 of the SDMX technical standards were ready to be submitted to the International Organization for Standardization for approval and that the initiative was moving towards the draft content oriented guidelines. The guidelines, to be used by statisticians when exchanging data and metadata, would be posted on the SDMX website. The Committee agreed that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in collaboration with the six partner agencies, would develop the implementation plan to be presented at the next session. In September 2006, the plan was presented by the SDMX sponsors, setting out ways for CCSA to facilitate the implementation of SDMX, in particular how international organizations can use SDMX concepts and tools for their exchange of data and metadata, both with national data providers and among themselves. The report also proposed a framework for the development of specific subject matter nomenclatures and structures and the improvement of existing ones.

8. At its eighth session, the Committee also agreed that additional information was needed before requesting the United Nations Statistical Commission to commend the goals and progress of the SDMX initiative, to recognize the importance of a wide use of SDMX standards for the exchange of statistical data and metadata among international statistical agencies and to encourage Member States to participate in further developments. The Committee agreed that a final version of a note presenting information on how Member States and international organizations could contribute to content-oriented guidelines in specific subject matter domains would be agreed upon by CCSA after its circulation to all members. The note was prepared by the SDMX sponsors, circulated and noted by members by the CCSA secretariat in November 2006.

F. Coordination of technical cooperation activities

9. In conjunction with its eighth session, CCSA held a special session on statistical capacity-building at which it discussed ways to improve inter-agency coordination of capacity-building activities and technical assistance to countries. It also reviewed ways to increase the sharing of information on ongoing and planned events, projects and programmes.

10. Participants agreed that more work was needed for CCSA to agree on specific recommendations on various issues related to the coordination of statistical capacity-building efforts. The Committee endorsed the proposal by the United Nations Statistics Division of forming four task teams to further this work, as follows:

(a) Task team 1: Reporting mechanisms on statistical capacity-building activities, led by PARIS21 (the Economic Commission for Europe, Eurostat, World Tourism Organization, World Bank, PAHO);

(b) Task team 2: Capacity-building through regional training initiatives for national statisticians (and regional training centres), led by the United Nations Statistics Division (International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, PARIS21);

(c) Task team 3: Review of modalities for the coordination of technical cooperation programmes at the subregional level, led by the World Bank (United Nations Statistics Division, Eurostat, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, African Development Bank, World Tourism Organization);

(d) Task team 4: Assessment of the effectiveness of capacity-building activities in Africa, led by the United Nations Statistics Division (WHO, PARIS21, World Bank, African Development Bank).

11. Task team leaders circulated the proposed terms of reference for their respective teams and will report to the tenth session of the Committee in September 2007.

F. Country regional grouping and coding

12. At the seventh session, the World Trade Organization proposed that the Committee consider the issue of regional country grouping and coding. The concerns raised by the World Trade Organization included: the need for transparency and consistency in the countries and regions nomenclature; and whether or not there is a need for harmonization across agencies or only for transparency and the creation of a registry. The Committee agreed that this is an important topic and that it should be addressed; as a first step, CCSA would look at the work already done in some forums to harmonize classifications.

13. Two reports were presented to the Committee: one prepared by the World Trade Organization, presenting a summary of discussions of the inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics on enhancing transparency and coherence in geo-nomenclatures based on experiences of country coding drawn from the successful implementation by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Statistics Division of their joint trade data

processing system; and one prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, describing practices with country coding and regional grouping and the adaptation of these regional aggregates to the requirements of Millennium Development Goal monitoring and reporting.

14. After reviewing various issues concerning both practices on country coding and different regional groupings used by agencies, the Committee agreed to focus work on expanding the country coding to meet the needs for data and metadata exchange among member agencies. It was agreed that agencies would submit to the United Nations Statistics Division their concerns and questions related to aggregations or disaggregations of countries and territories not currently covered by its Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use. The United Nations Statistics Division would review the requests and propose additional coding to be used consistently by all members for data and metadata exchange.

15. On the more complex issue of discrepancies in regional classifications used by member agencies, it was agreed that decisions should be left to inter-agency groups working on specific themes/projects, such as the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators.

G. Review of Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities functions

16. The Committee took note of a document on the history of CCSA and current functions, prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division. The Committee agreed that the United Nations Statistics Division and the chairman, in collaboration with other agencies interested in contributing to the exercise, will prepare a proposal on how to improve the way CCSA operates for discussion at its ninth session. The proposal would include issues such as the duration of the sessions, the role of the Secretariat and the chairman, the structure of the discussion and duration and modalities of special sessions.

H. Discussion on the report by the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goal Indicators

17. At its seventh session, the Committee reviewed the report by the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goal Indicators and discussed ways to respond to the issues raised by the report. It was remarked that the focus of the report had shifted from issues of capacity-building in countries to the ways data are estimated and compiled by international agencies. It was also remarked that according to the original intent of the process for the global monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, international agencies had been tasked with producing estimates at the regional and global level only. For those reasons, it was pointed out that CCSA should respond to the issues raised. The Committee took note of several suggestions by members on how to address such issues, including: applying the SDMX standards and ensuring adherence by agencies to the Principles for Statistical Activities in International Organizations. The Committee recognized the concerns of countries on the imputation of figures by international agencies and on the quality of data disseminated by the agencies, while at the same time emphasizing the need for statistical capacity-building in countries.

Annex

Participating agencies and offices

Seventh Meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (New York, 6 March 2006)

United Nations entities and programmes

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Statistics Division

United Nations Population Division

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations and other specialized agencies

International Labour Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

World Bank

International Monetary Fund

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

World Trade Organization

International Telecommunication Union

Other international and non-governmental organizations

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Eurostat

Inter-State Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Bank for International Settlements

African Development Bank

European Central Bank

PARIS21

ECOWAS

Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics

CARICOM

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Annex I

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Seventh session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (New York, 6 March 2006)

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PARIS21

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

Annex II

Coordination of subject matter domain guidelines involving SDMX

Background

At the 8th meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) in Montreal on 4-5 September 2006, SDMX Sponsoring Institutions[1] were asked to spell out envisaged steps towards coordinating activities of those national and international statistical agencies interested in developing subject-matter domain guidelines for exchanging data and metadata within the SDMX framework.

Better understanding of these steps was seen as providing a basis for CCSA's recommendation to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2007:

- to commend the goals and developments of SDMX in fostering standards and guidelines for data and metadata exchange;
- to recognize the importance of a wide use of SDMX standards for the exchange of statistical data and metadata among all participants in the international statistical system (national statistical offices, government agencies, central banks, international organizations, etc.);
- to encourage participation by national and international statistical agencies in their further development and use;
- to invite the SDMX Sponsoring Institutions to use the SDMX website to link to work of specific statistical domains that develop subject-matter data structure definitions and thereby provide some coherence to these efforts;
- to ask the SDMX Sponsoring Institutions to regularly report to the Commission on the initiative's progress.

The goal of this note is to outline the process by which those interested can participate and contribute to domain-specific developments, enabling greater efficiencies and reduced reporting burden in data and metadata exchange.[2]

Existing process to adopt SDMX standards

The SDMX initiative provides a set of building blocks for the exchange of statistical information involving technical standards (an information model, exchange formats and an architecture) and content-oriented guidelines (cross-domain concepts, a list of subject-matter domains and a metadata common vocabulary).

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1 Currently these are: BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UN, World Bank.

2 Points articulated in this note have benefited from an exchange of views on the topic that took place during a meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on 19 October 2006 in Washington, D.C. Participants included national statistical agencies along with international institutions, some of whom are sponsoring organisations of the SDMX initiative. A follow-up discussion is scheduled to take place at the CES Bureau meeting in Geneva in February 2007.

The way in which SDMX standards and guidelines are developed and officially endorsed entails the following steps:

- the SDMX Secretariat, in consultation with experts working in Sponsor organizations and other experts in the field (including those working in other international organizations, national statistical offices and national central banks), develops draft standards and guidelines;
- the SDMX Sponsors Committee authorises the publication of draft technical standards and guidelines that appear on its website for public comment periods and for reviews of issues in meetings with their constituencies (especially national and statistical agencies and central banks);
- following this public consultation, the sponsoring institutions are then ready to follow an approval process for the release of its technical standards and those content-oriented guidelines that are across domains (i.e. cross-domain concepts and vocabularies). In addition, the technical standards go through an approval process of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for Technical Specification 17369 (SDMX).

This process has proved to be efficient and fully transparent, also considering that each organization, according to its own rules, has regularly informed its constituency about SDMX developments and that SDMX Sponsors as a whole reported to the UN Statistical Commission.

Coordination of subject-matter domain developments

SDMX envisages three essential elements in developing subject-matter data structure definitions and code-lists in a transparent and coordinated way, building wherever possible on available cross-domain concepts and the metadata common vocabulary:

- a list of domains for which data structure definitions should be developed;
- organisations (or groups of organisations) developing data structure definitions for statistical domains (or groups of domains);
- a mechanism to foster coherence in data structure definitions (and associated code-lists) developed by different organizations/working groups in order to facilitate their use worldwide.

A preliminary list of statistical subject-matter domains already represents one of the SDMX content-oriented guidelines.[3] This list makes extensive use of the latest version of the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE) Classification of International Statistical Activities.[4] As a starting point, Annex A offers an initial high-level list of these domains; and Annex B provides a brief introduction to what's involved in a data structure definition.

The development of data structure definitions (and associated code-lists) for specific subject-matters requires two types of expertise: statistical and technical. While there is a longstanding co-operation on

[3] The preliminary drafts of SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines can be downloaded from the SDMX website.

[4] See the current version at http://unece.unog.ch/IntPres/disa.explorer.asp?Search=PAPE&Year=2006.

a worldwide level to develop statistical concepts and methodologies in a coordinated way (through various international working groups and task-forces), experience to develop data structure definitions and code-lists according to SDMX content-oriented guidelines is currently centered within the SDMX Sponsoring Institutions and a number of central banks and national statistical agencies. The Sponsors Committee sees the incremental development of domain-specific data structure definitions (and associated code-lists) as building on the work of both the domain specialists and SDMX-experienced experts. Broad-based collaboration among institutions and statistical experts has to be ensured, especially to:

- foster good practices for the development of sensible domain-specific terminology for concepts and code lists;
- facilitate awareness of important issues and possible mapping principles that may be necessary with respect to existing classification schemes and systems of countries and international institutions.

In this context, some supplementary information is provided in Annex C about the role of SDMX data structure definitions in creating efficiencies. Annex D also highlights kinds of implementations where the SDMX framework can be usefully applied.

Costs and benefits

Recent experiences in developing data structure definitions have focused on external debt, monetary statistics, international financial statistics, balance of payments, commodity trade statistics, national accounts, short term indicators, agriculture data and some additional macro-economic statistical series. A well-established use of the framework has been in place for many years for a variety of statistics at the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), Eurostat and the BIS. Some data structure definitions, eg for ESCB and Eurostat, are also enshrined in EU legal acts.

Out of recent and earlier experiences, some understanding has been formed about the order of magnitude of estimated costs to develop the formal SDMX structures that are exchanged. If the classification schemes of the data sets or questionnaires are already known and well structured, including code lists, it may take only a few weeks of actual work to develop the basic components of the SDMX data structure. However, the time for needed for fine-tuning of the structure, by all parties reviewing the work, is estimated to take several months. The actual technical implementation of the data structure definition, using available SDMX tools or in-house techniques, is estimated at only a few days. The fewer the institutions/groups involved and the smaller the data sets, the shorter the actual and elapsed times. In addition, major components of data structure definitions that are developed can be re-used to address specific institutional requirements for national or international agencies.

In the case of external debt, for example, the data structure definition used for the BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH) took about three weeks of actual work over a time period of about six months. In the case of the OECD's National Accounts World Wide Exchange (NAWWE) project, the estimate for work associated with creating the data structure definition for the

entire Eurostat-OECD questionnaire was about six weeks over a period of about twelve months. In both cases, actual technical implementation of the data structure definition took a few days.

In terms of benefits, there are clear advantages in building lists of concepts and associated code lists that can be used by a wide range of users for the exchange of statistical information. In principle, two institutions exchanging information can agree on the terminology between themselves and take advantage of SDMX technical standards. Similarly a disseminator of statistics can use its own specific terminology and SDMX standards. However, a more common set of content-oriented guidelines will facilitate data exchange and dissemination greatly as these can be shared by many institutions and users. It also avoids duplication of efforts in developing and maintaining lists of statistical concepts and associated code lists. The benefits can materialise most quickly in those areas where there already exist national and international statistical nomenclatures.

It should be noted that there is no need for individual institutions to change their internal content-oriented guidelines when common guidelines are developed and made available. Interfaces can be developed to map how data are identified internally with how they are identified during exchange or dissemination. Before SDMX, such interfaces had to be build for every single bilateral data exchange (or within closed groups of exchanging institutions). The more SDMX can promote common subject-matter domain guidelines, the fewer such interfaces will be needed in the future, or the simpler they will become.

In the case of the JEDH mentioned above, the launch of the technical application became straightforward once the data structure definitions for the external debt data were approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics. These definitions were easily deployed within the data contributed by the participating institutions as well as within the application created within the World Bank's existing Development Data Platform and the connectivity to an SDMX registry infrastructure hosted at the OECD. The NAWWE project is also making use of SDMX and envisages implementation of common data structure definitions through a rapid-development approach that can provide incremental functionality over time.

As the methodological and computer-related work are part of the usual activities taking place at national and international institutions concerning statistical definitions and exchange processes, any specific trade-off between costs and benefits may be seen as associated with the specific nature of internal systems or interfaces to international systems. As the common formats of the SDMX structures provide "machine-readable" data, these yield opportunities at the technical level to lower costs (eg reduced manual processes such as re-keying of data or re-formatting). In addition, important efficiencies come from using a common approach by many institutions for many users, for example, exchanges with several international organisations and availability via websites.

Open processes

A central factor for the success of the proposed approach to creating domain-specific data structure definitions is the transparency of the process to develop them, in particular to ensure the involvement of users. Therefore draft domain-specific concepts, data structure definitions and code lists should be issued for public comment and review before their final approval by the respective working groups/experts that will develop them. SDMX Sponsors are in the process of studying how the SDMX website could be used to assist this process, especially in the context of providing links to the work

done on subject-matter domain sites and thereby offering an opportunity to foster coherence in the process.

The following steps are envisaged:

- when an organization (or a group of organizations) decides to develop data structure definitions for a specific subject-matter, it would communicate this intention to the SDMX secretariat, using a pre-defined template made available on the SDMX web site. The information would be made public on the same web site and disseminated to CCSA members and UNSC members;
- the organization (or group of organizations) would develop the data structure definitions for their specific subject-matter domain ensuring an open consultation period for public comments; the SDMX secretariat can make suggestions that the organizations(s) cooperate with other organization(s) that may be working on similar activities concerning the same or related statistical domains. Subject to availability of resources, the SDMX Secretariat might also assist in reviewing notes (or completed templates) provided by subject-matter domain groups that indicate how their work is conformant with the SDMX framework, in order to ensure coherence of their work within the broader scope of SDMX developments;
- when the final data structure definition is ready, it would be posted on the SDMX website for public use. This way the SDMX web site would become an evolving repository where data structure definitions and code-lists developed for specific subject-matters would be made available to all interested parties. The UN Statistical Commission would receive regular updates in order to be informed of progress in these developments.

The process would not require any change in existing coordination and governance arrangements in countries and international institutions. SDMX will only play a coordinating role. The success of the proposed approach will depend on the goodwill of the various institutions and groups involved to share their expertise and resources and to cooperate effectively.

Annex A

Preliminary SDMX list of statistical subject-matter domains

Domain 1: Demographic and social statistics	Domain 2: Economic statistics	Domain 3: Environment and multi-domain statistics
1.1 Population and migration	2.1 Macroeconomic statistics	3.1 Environment
1.2 Labour	2.2 Economic accounts	3.2 Regional and small area statistics
1.3 Education	2.3 Business statistics	3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators
1.4 Health	2.4 Sectoral statistics	3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues
1.5 Income and consumption	2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries	3.3.2 Gender and special population groups
1.6 Social protection	2.4.2 Energy	3.3.3 Information society
1.7 Human settlements and housing	2.4.3 Mining, manufacturing, construction	3.3.4 Globalisation
1.8 Justice and crime	2.4.4 Transport	3.3.5 Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals
1.9 Culture	2.4.5 Tourism	3.3.6 Sustainable development
1.10 Political and other community activities	2.4.6 Banking, insurance, financial statistics	3.4 Yearbooks and similar compendia
1.11 Time-use	2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics	
	2.6 International trade and balance of payments	
	2.7 Prices	
	2.8 Labour cost	
	2.9 Science and technology	

Annex B

What is a Data Structure Definition?

Statistical data is represented with numbers, such as "17369". If you are presented with a number - as above - you can't tell from the number alone what it is a measurement of. A number of questions come immediately to mind: What is the subject of the measurement? What units does it measure in? What country or geographical region, if any, does it apply to? When was the measurement made? The list of questions is potentially endless.

Behind each of these questions there is a particular "concept", which is used to describe the data. In our questions above, these descriptor concepts are Subject, Unit of measure, Country, and Time. The simplest explanation of a Data Structure Definition is that it is "a set of descriptor concepts, associated with a set of data, which allow us to understand what that data means". There is more to it, however.

There is a higher level of package known as a "Data Set". Typically, it is maintained and published by an agency, so that it becomes a known source of statistical data. A basic structure is emerging: we have Observations, grouped over time into Series, which are grouped into Data Sets.

In order to be able to exchange and understand data, a Data Structure Definition tells us about the relevant dimensions and what the possible values for each dimension are. This list of possible values is known as a code list. Each value on that list is given a language-independent abbreviation - a "code" - and a language-specific description. This helps us avoid problems of translation in describing our data: the code can be translated into descriptions in any language without having to change the code associated with the data itself. Wherever possible, the values for code lists are taken from international standards, such as those provided by ISO for countries and currencies.

Annex C

Greater efficiency through SDMX data structure definitions

When SDMX standards and guidelines are used to put together a data exchange among two or more partners this involves the specification of a "data structure definition" (also known as a "key family"). Some of the concepts and related code lists used in the actual exchange are cross-domain (e.g. unit of measure, frequency), while others are domain-specific (e.g. financial instruments, aggregates of national accounts).

A data structure definition specifies a set of concepts which describe and identify a set of data. It tells us which concepts are the dimensions (identification and description) and which are attributes (just description). It also tells us which code lists provide the possible values for the dimensions and attributes or if these values are of another data type such as numeric or free text. For example, the data structure definition for the BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank Joint External Debt Hub (JEDH) contains the concepts that identify and describe the external debt data required for the JEDH website. It contains concepts that uniquely identify the data, such as the creditor country, the debtor country, the financial instrument, the maturity of the instrument, the data frequency, etc. For each of these concepts, a code list is provided and must be used when reporting the data. The data structure definition also contains concepts that describe the data reported, such as currency unit and decimal, which only describe the data, as the same data could be reported using a different number of decimals.

SDMX is focused on exchange or sharing between institutions and dissemination to users. Two institutions can agree on the exchange terminology between themselves and take advantage of the efficiencies that follow from the use of computer-readable formats that are provided through the SDMX framework. Interfaces can be developed at institutions to map how data are identified internally with how they are identified during exchange. But building lists of concepts and associated code lists that can be used by a wide range of users for the exchange of statistical information allows greater efficiencies in transmissions and web access to a wide range of data and metadata.[5] Commonalities make it easier to identify what is being exchanged and to navigate catalogues of information that make use of these identifiers.

For more general use by many institutions (and associated greater efficiencies) a more common set of content-oriented guidelines can facilitate the exchange. This is achieved by using common cross-domain and domain-specific terminology, like in the case of JEDH. Dissemination of data and metadata on the web also follows the same principle: greater gains from efficiency follow from greater commonality in use of content-oriented guidelines for what is contained in the exchange. Supplementary metadata can provide explanations of how "local" practices for describing and compiling the data may be different from the "common" terminology used in exchanges. Institution-specific terminology can also be used in exchanges, hopefully building on common high-level domain-specific content-oriented guidelines.

For example, to develop the JEDH website the participating organizations have already defined "code lists" for several dimensions, such as country, time, unit, etc. These dimensions can be made available

[5] A new section of the SDMX website will contain information on available concepts and code lists and how they are used in constructing data and metadata structure definitions.

on the SDMX website to be eventually re-used by other organizations for bilateral or multilateral exchanges of data pertaining to other subject-matters (price indices, national accounts, etc.). This approach would minimize the costs for those institutions who want to use SDMX guidelines. Therefore, the target is a framework for interfaces between as many "owners" of statistical data and metadata as might be interested over time in making use of this exchange framework.

Annex D

Going forward with implementation of SDMX standards

Efforts in collaboration in subject-matter domains that follow the SDMX framework are taking shape in national accounts, balance of payments, external debt, financial statistics, education, agriculture, population and some indicators associated with the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, actions that foster the use of the SDMX framework, and therefore require the development of data structure definitions and code-lists, include the following:

- *SDMX for batch exchange*: international organisations already use SDMX formats for batch data exchange with national institutions for a wide range of statistics and these processes are being extended, facilitating more efficient data flows that can be handled by internal systems at sender and receiver ends of the exchange.
- *SDMX joint hubs*: international organisations that already have joint data collections are thinking about the development of joint hubs, possibly under the auspices of existing international working groups. For example, Eurostat, OECD and UNESCO already use a joint questionnaire on education statistics and share data collection and verification work, and data are used to produce a joint publication. They already discussed to move to SDMX standards and guidelines both for data collection and data dissemination (joint hub), developing data structure definitions for all variables covered by the exercise.
- *SDMX for existing data collections*: organisations who already collect data through electronic questionnaires using various text formats are transforming their questionnaires in SDMX format, This can be done individually or in a more co-ordinated way, both through bilateral contacts with other agencies active in the same field, or involving international working groups active in that particular statistical domain. Of course, when joint data collection activities are carried out by two or more IOs an agreement on data structure definitions has to be found among participants, wherever possible adopting and building on those already existing.
- *SDMX for dissemination*: SDMX formats are already used to disseminate data, irrespective of how they have been collected.

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Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission a report prepared by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21). The present report outlines PARIS21 efforts to promote the use of better statistics as a central part of the enabling environment for development progress, particularly through support to countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics with a focus on low-income countries, through methodological advice, advocacy and the promotion of donor collaboration in statistical support programmes. The Commission may wish to take note of the progress and future directions of PARIS21 work.

* E/CN.3/2007/1.

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Report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century

I. Introduction

1. With the increasing emphasis on managing for development results, national policymakers and the international development community have become increasingly aware of the importance of statistics in informing and designing development interventions. The Second International Round Table on Managing for Development Results called on countries to design national strategies for the development of statistics to provide a framework for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system in order to meet evolving national and international user needs and priorities for statistics in a more coordinated, synergistic and efficient manner. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) is assisting countries in the development of their strategies by drafting methodological advice, promoting and facilitating donor collaboration, producing statistical advocacy tools and organizing regional workshops to discuss issues and share experiences.

2. With the increasing international focus on results-based management, national policymakers and the international development community have become increasingly aware that good statistics are part of the enabling environment for development. Strengthening statistical capacity is therefore essential to support the design, monitoring and evaluation of national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, sector strategies and the Millennium Development Goals.

3. In recognition of the development community's reliance on timely, high-quality statistics to manage for results, the Second International Round Table on Managing for Development Results, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in February 2004, issued the six-part Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, which encourages all developing countries to design and implement national strategies for the development of statistics to improve the evidence base by providing a strategic framework for developing relevant poverty-focused statistics.

4. A national strategy provides a country with a focus for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system. The national strategy will provide a vision for where the national statistical system should be in 5 to 10 years and will set milestones for getting there. It will provide a robust framework and action plan for building statistical capacity to meet both current and future data needs. In particular, the aim is to align statistical development with wider poverty-focused national development programmes and strategies.[1]

5. PARIS21 focuses its efforts on assisting developing countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies in order to have, inter alia, nationally owned and produced data for all Millennium Development Goals indicators and all development policy needs by 2010. The overall goal of PARIS21 is to develop a culture of evidence-based policymaking and implementation which serves to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

[1] For more detailed discussion of national strategies for the development of statistics, see E/CN.3/2005/18.

II. Evaluation of the PARIS21

6. At the PARIS21 Steering Committee meeting held in June 2005, members agreed on a light evaluation of the impact, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of PARIS21, which would also consider the future of PARIS21 after 2006. Conclusions drawn from the evaluation, completed in early 2006, included the successfulness of the national strategy for the development of statistics approach, the appropriateness of PARIS21 activities and work programme to the PARIS21 purpose, the high adaptability of the partnership to the focus on national strategies, and the relevance and effectiveness of PARIS21. Recommendations included assigning a high priority to national strategies and making them more visible in PARIS21 objectives; expanding the PARIS21 mandate to better facilitate the development of national strategies; ensuring that advocacy work be prioritized as an essential element in national strategies; and expanding the PARIS21 coordination role to improve conditions for better cooperation between its secretariat and involved partners. Steering Committee members also identified providing assistance to strategy implementation as a key area of future work for PARIS21. Based on the results and recommendations of the evaluation, the Steering Committee authorized an extension of PARIS21 beyond 2006 and agreed a renewed mandate, modalities for a strengthened PARIS21 and revised governance arrangements for PARIS21.

III. Progress in PARIS21 activities

7. PARIS21 supports country efforts to design, implement and monitor their national strategies for the development of statistics, primarily through the following types of activities: (a) advocacy and the development of statistical advocacy tools; (b) regional programmes, including resource mobilization; (c) promotion of donor collaboration; (d) development of national strategies methodology; and (e) satellite programmes. Progress made in these areas in 2006 is provided below.

Advocacy and the development of statistical advocacy tools

8. Among the advocacy tools produced by PARIS21 in 2006 are the following:

(a) A video entitled "Food and agriculture statistics in support of development", produced in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(b) A leaflet entitled "Better statistics, better policies, better development outcomes", which was based on a paper entitled "Measuring up to the measurement problem: the role of statistics in evidence-based policy-making";

(c) A brochure entitled "Frequently asked questions on national strategies for the development of statistics";

(d) A five-minute video clip presenting statements from high-level personalities for the 18 November African Statistics Day celebrations; the theme of the 2006 African Statistics Day was "National strategies for the development of statistics".

Regional programmes, including resource mobilization

9. In collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and with the financial support of a United Nations Development Programme-managed Japanese trust fund, PARIS21 organized a series of four subregional forums in Asia.[2] The objectives of the forums were to assess the current status of strategic statistical planning in the countries; to identify the successes and constraints being experienced in implementing existing plans; and to consider solutions to those constraints and practical next steps. ESCAP and PARIS21 are currently designing a programme of follow-up to the forums, which will be implemented in 2007.

10. After a series of regular workshops held in the subregion since 2004, the directors of Central American national statistical offices presented to the international community in September 2006 their finalized national strategies, along with their requests for funding strategy implementation. In early October 2006, PARIS21 organized a meeting on launching a national strategies programme for the Andean Community, at which participants agreed to a series of future workshops.

11. Francophone African countries have started their strategy design with funding from the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Some of those countries are implementing their strategies, updating existing strategies or seeking funds for strategy implementation. The PARIS21 secretariat co-organized and participated in a series of videoconferences with francophone African national strategies design teams and donors to organize the series of national strategies design workshops. PARIS21 was represented at several meetings throughout anglophone and francophone Africa to launch AfDB support to national strategies design processes. These meetings also provided the opportunity to meet heads of national statistical organizations or their representatives, to make presentations of the partnership work and to disseminate advocacy materials. PARIS21 joined the International Monetary Fund for two missions to Dakar and Ouagadougou to discuss the updating of General Data Dissemination System metadata, using the Data Quality Assessment Framework, and to draft a work programme to be included in poverty reduction strategy papers under revision.

12. In collaboration with its partners, PARIS21 prepared a preliminary worldwide report in April 2006 on progress in designing national strategies. According to information available on the 105 countries included in the report, 34 countries had strategies in place, 54 were at various stages in preparing strategies and only 17 countries neither had strategies in place nor had started to design one, though a number of these had expressed their intention to do so.

Promotion of donor collaboration

13. PARIS21 launched a pilot light reporting exercise of donor support to statistical capacity-building in sub-Saharan Africa. The approach of the pilot exercise was to collect information directly from headquarters of both technical and

[2] The four subregional forums held in Asia were the following: (a) South Asian countries, Colombo, December 2005; (b) Central Asian countries, Bishkek, May 2006; (c) South-East Asian countries, Bangkok, June 2006; and (d) East and North-East Asian countries, Ulaanbaatar, October 2006.

financial partners. In this first round, 56 partners were contacted, of which 20 were bilateral donors, 17 multilateral agencies, 3 were regional organizations, 11 were subregional organizations, 4 were statistical training centres and 1 was a foundation. The results of the pilot exercise were presented in a two-volume document, entitled "Review of support to statistical capacity-building in sub-Saharan Africa: from reporting to collaboration".

14. The main findings of the pilot exercise suggest that:

(a) Partners often do not maintain a centralized system on operations and use of funds due to:

(i) Decentralization of decision-making on the use of aid;

(ii) A shift of development assistance to budgetary support;

(b) Statistics are not always identified as sector, so funding for statistical activities is difficult to identify;

(c) Collaboration between bilateral donor agencies and their statistical offices is not always well coordinated;

(d) Estimating the value of technical assistance for statistical development (experts and training) is not easy (even if statistical activities were identified, amounts are often not specified).

15. The PARIS21 secretariat undertook country-level verification of the light reporting exercise information collected from partners' headquarters in Niger, Ethiopia and Mauritania. The country missions concluded that: (a) information is more readily accessible at country level; (b) national statistical offices are not always aware of funding to sector statistics; and (c) donor coordination varies in countries, both in terms of level and mechanisms. The missions confirmed the usefulness of a partner reporting system on statistical development for the preparation of national strategies.

16. At the eighth session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), held in Montreal, Canada, in September 2006, PARIS21 presented the results of the light reporting exercise. CCSA supported the creation of an inter-agency task team whose function would be to harmonize the exercise with similar, existing reporting systems; develop an online database for its results that meets the requirements of different partners; and oversee the initiative's updating and expansion. The creation of this team was also endorsed by the PARIS21 Steering Committee in November 2006.

Development of methodology for a national strategy for the development of statistics

17. PARIS21 produces methodological advice and guidance to assist countries with their strategic planning efforts.[3] Among the papers produced in 2006 are the following:

(a) "Some issues in design and implementation planning for a national strategy for the development of statistics". This paper identifies some leading issues that need to be given careful thought through the national strategies processes,

[3] See http://www.paris21.org/knowledgebase/.

mainly during the design and implementation planning phases; provides possible solutions to these issues; and illustrates how they have been handled in selected countries;

(b) "Developing a policy-based national strategy for the development of statistics". This paper is intended to provide advice and a straightforward checklist to help those facing the task of designing and implementing a national strategy in response to a major statement of government development policy;

(c) "Mainstreaming sectoral statistics: a manual for planning an integrated statistical system". This paper provides guidance on how to integrate sectoral statistical development into the system-wide development of national statistics.

Satellite programmes

18. The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics identified six priority actions for the statistical community. An Action Plan advisory board was established to supervise implementation of this work, and it endorsed the proposal that the PARIS21 secretariat implement three of these activities: (a) support to strategic planning in statistics; (b) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of household surveys through the International Household Survey Network (IHSN); and (c) an accelerated data programme in pilot countries to make urgent improvements for monitoring national and international development policy, including the Millennium Development Goals. These last two actions were proposed to be run through the PARIS21 secretariat as "satellite programmes". In early 2006, the PARIS21 Steering Committee and relevant bodies within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development approved the inclusion of these pilot satellite programmes in the PARIS21 secretariat work programme.

19. The overall goal of IHSN is to bring survey producers, sponsors and users together to improve the use of survey data for policymaking and monitoring. The Network will identify, promote and implement coordinated and sustainable solutions to problems of availability and timeliness, reliability and relevance, comparability and dissemination and use of household survey data. To achieve these goals, IHSN will conduct four main activities: (a) survey planning; (b) harmonization and development of data collection instruments; (c) production of survey data dissemination tools and guidelines; and (d) establishment of a central survey and census catalogue. An important priority is to closely link IHSN work with national strategies to provide country statisticians with tools needed to implement the main parts of the national strategies in order to improve data collection and its availability.

20. The accelerated data programme is a pilot programme intended to assist up to 12 countries in undertaking urgent improvements to produce consistent results for monitoring progress and measuring change in key development indicators, including the Millennium Development Goals, by 2010. The aim will be to review existing data and to identify what needs to be done to fill data gaps for those indicators, improve quality and develop an adequate baseline. The basic approach will be for pilot countries to identify a core set of indicators based on national priorities as set out in the countries' poverty reduction strategies, alignment with Millennium Development Goals indicators and relevance to International Development Association activities. The approach to be taken in each country will depend on specific circumstances, but essentially there are three possible steps: identify,

document and disseminate existing survey data; analyse existing data and assess the past survey programme; and review survey programmes in line with the national strategy, and if appropriate develop a more efficient and effective programme.

21. Although the "Measuring democracy, human rights and governance" (Metagora) project is physically hosted within the structure of the PARIS21 secretariat as are the satellite programmes above, it has a separate governance structure led by its own steering committee of donors. In 2006, Metagora consolidated the achievements of its pilot phase and its steering committee approved a second phase of project activities, to begin in 2007. The project focuses on methods, tools and frameworks for measuring democracy, human rights and governance.

IV. Future directions of PARIS21 work

22. In 2007, PARIS21 will address the key challenge of supporting strategy implementation, while continuing to assist those countries still at the design phase. In close collaboration with partners, PARIS21 will directly assist countries in advocating for support of national strategies implementation and the integration of statistical development in overall development policy processes. PARIS21 will support quality reviews of national strategies, including through the facilitation of peer reviews. The work programme for 2007 will also include the production of specific studies and guidance on issues related to statistical development, the further development and expansion of the light reporting exercise and regional events on strategic planning to be held in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and Latin America.

V. Points for discussion

23. **The Statistical Commission may wish to comment on the progress and future directions of PARIS21 work.**

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Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-seventh session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report on an initiative to foster common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata. The report is presented to the Commission for information.

* E/CN.3/2007/1.

** *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 4* (E/2006/24), chap. I, sect. B.

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Report on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of socio-economic data and metadata: the SDMX initiative*

I. Introduction

1. In 2001, the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations joined together to develop more efficient processes for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata within the current scope of their collective activities. The World Bank joined the initial group of sponsor organizations in 2003.

2. The goal of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative is to foster standards and guidelines that allow national and international organizations to gain efficiencies and avoid duplication of work in the area of data and metadata exchange through the use of modern technology. The above sponsor organizations have been making progress over the past few years, especially through the increasing involvement of international and national statistical agencies. SDMX builds on existing and emerging technical exchange protocols and on the content-oriented efforts of statisticians that have worked on these long-standing issues in various domains and forums. More details can be found at the SDMX website (see www.sdmx.org).

3. The United Nations Statistical Commission received an initial report on the initiative during its thirty-third session, in March 2002.[1] A follow-up report was submitted to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, in March 2003,[2] focusing on the launch of projects jointly undertaken by the sponsoring institutions. Subsequent reports in March 2004[3] and March 2005[4] reported on further progress; and a special outreach event about SDMX was attended by about 50 delegates to the March 2006 Commission session. The present report reviews the latest developments in SDMX and outlines future plans. In particular, section II summarizes achievements in standards and guidelines and section III focuses on progress in implementations. Section IV takes up the topic of outreach, particularly with respect to involving the global community of national and international statistical agencies.

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* The report has been jointly prepared by the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 4* (E/2002/24), chap. VI, sect. C; see also http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2002.htm.

[2] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2003.htm.

[3] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2004.htm.

[4] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2005.htm.

II. Progress in standards and guidelines

4. All the major building blocks of SDMX are now in place, providing a framework for technical standards and content-oriented guidelines to support more effective exchanges of quality data via modern technology. Benefits for international and national organizations using SDMX include reporting systems, internal processing systems (for compiling data and metadata) and external dissemination (e.g. via the Internet). In particular, the dissemination of national data and metadata using Web technology and SDMX standards is seen as a way to reduce the international reporting burden, through the use of common formats and nomenclatures.

5. The information model, formats and architecture that constitute SDMX technical standards (version 2.0) were approved by the SDMX Sponsors Committee in November 2005, after being posted on the SDMX website for public comment and being adjusted to reflect input received from national and international statistical agencies around the world. Version 2.0 is being submitted for review by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), which approved version 1.0 as Technical Specification 17369 in April 2005.

6. A draft framework for SDMX content-oriented guidelines was made available for public review during first and second quarters of 2006 via the SDMX website, and input received is being taken into account in revising and extending these guidelines. Among others, comments were received via several meetings involving national statistical agencies from around the world with broad positive agreement on the overall direction and the need to make further advances in the detailed specifications. The draft content-oriented guidelines cover preliminary lists of cross-domain concepts and statistical subject-matter domains, as well as a metadata common vocabulary. A follow-up consultative period is being envisaged.

7. At the technical level, SDMX provides standards and mainstream mechanisms that can be applied to preparing and accessing data in common formats, allowing them to also be available via modern transmission techniques and by using Web technology. In the latter, data stored on public and/or secure websites using SDMX standards can be retrieved by one or more international organizations for compilation and analytical purposes. Tools to facilitate implementations and a user guide, covering a range of topics, are also being made available through the SDMX website.

8. Thanks to this work, the main technical building blocks necessary for the concrete use of SDMX standards are now available. Therefore, any organization interested in using SDMX standards and tools to exchange data and metadata with its correspondents or for its internal use can do it.

III. Progress in implementations

9. Projects within and outside the SDMX sponsoring organizations are demonstrating practical ways of using SDMX and confirming that the technical standards work efficiently in practice. In particular, the following projects have been implemented or are under way (see www.sdmx.org):

- SDMX Open Data Interchange (Eurostat): to collect and disseminate in real-time short-term economic indicators in the European Statistical System, also ensuring a proper European Union-wide exchange of reference metadata conformant with SDMX standards and guidelines;

- Joint Comtrade Statistics System (United Nations Statistics Division and OECD): to exchange international trade data between OECD and the United Nations Statistics Division and keep up to date in real time two sister databases in New York and Paris;[5]

- National Accounts World Wide Exchange (OECD): to update in real time the OECD database on national accounts using data released by national statistical offices;

- Joint dissemination of euro area statistics and warehouse (European Central Bank): to disseminate statistics (euro area aggregates and related national breakdowns) simultaneously and in the respective languages on the websites of the European Central Bank and the national central banks of the Eurosystem;[6] and to provide additional interactive access capabilities via the European Central Bank Statistical Data Warehouse (SDW).[7]

- Joint External Debt Hub (Bank for International Settlements, IMF, OECD, World Bank): to disseminate external debt statistics from creditor/market (international compilers) and debtor (national compilers) sources;[8]

- Metadata repositories (IMF): to facilitate the open exchange of reference metadata that are collected and stored in repositories, especially in the context of macroeconomic datasets, so that this information can be more efficiently received and updated from countries.

10. Other projects are also leading the way at other international organizations, e.g. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Group/DevInfo and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Some of this work involves tools that rely on SDMX standards and are expected to be helpful for outreach to developing countries.

11. Meetings and projects involving national statistical agencies have indicated that SDMX implementations are being considered and taken forward around the world. In Europe, Eurostat and the European Central Bank are leading the way in SDMX activities in close coordination and cooperation with their national constituencies. The Bank for International Settlements, IMF, OECD, the United Nations and the World Bank are also taking forward parallel initiatives with their global constituencies. These and related efforts by other statistical agencies and countries have focused on the domains of economic, financial and trade statistics, as well as social statistics and those for food and agriculture.

[5] See http://comtrade.un.org/kb/article.aspx?id=10087.
[6] See http://www.ecb.int/stats/services/escb/html/index.en.html.
[7] See http://www.ecb.int/stats/services/sdw/html/index.en.html.
[8] See http://www.jedh.org.

IV. The way forward

12. A central priority in going forward with SDMX is broader outreach to other international and national statistical institutions. SDMX standards and guidelines need to ensure that all parties that are (and may be) interested in them have opportunities to contribute to their evolution. Engagement in future efforts can be achieved through many ways, e.g. comments on documents made publicly available via the SDMX website and consultations (bilateral and multilateral) in a range of ongoing and ad hoc forums.

13. At the international level, the sponsoring institutions have concentrated their attention on discussions and feedback involving the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which brings together about 25 international institutions within and outside the United Nations family of statistical agencies. In 2006, the Committee endorsed the SDMX framework in principle for data and metadata exchanges. It also encouraged more information to be provided on the subject of implementation strategy, including the envisaged coordination of subject-matter domain guidelines involving SDMX that would include the participation of national and international institutions.

14. Exchanges of views about SDMX are regularly taking place at various meetings and conferences of experts and heads of statistics, focused on emerging national and international developments in data and metadata exchange. Some of these sessions are also being directly facilitated by the SDMX sponsoring institutions as part of their usual collaboration and awareness-building with their constituencies.

15. A further step forward in outreach will take place through an international conference entitled "Towards implementation of SDMX", to be hosted by the World Bank in Washington, D.C., from 9 to 11 January 2007. Two days of presentations and a panel discussion about SDMX implementations (completed and planned) will be followed by an additional day of capacity-building sessions concerned with technical standards and content-oriented guidelines.

V. Conclusions

16. **SDMX technical standards and content-oriented guidelines have started to become a focal point for improving the exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata using modern technology. The SDMX sponsoring institutions look forward to continued involvement of national and international statistical institutions in shaping future SDMX developments and implementations. It is hoped that, over the months ahead, further outreach efforts can help to ensure that SDMX standards and guidelines are further implemented at the international and national levels.**

17. **The United Nations Statistical Commission may wish to take note of the report.**

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Item 4 (j) of the provisional agenda*
Items for information: follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

Policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-seventh session,[a] the present note was prepared to brief the Commission on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council adopted in 2006 that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The note furthermore indicates the actions taken and proposed to be taken by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in an effort to respond to the requests made by the Council. The note also contains a section for information on the recent decisions taken by the General Assembly with a view to reform the Economic and Social Council. The Commission is invited to take note of the brief contained herein.

* E/CN.3/2007/1.

[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 4* (E/2006/24), sect. I.A.

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V.	Reform of the Economic and Social Council	15	6

I. Follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/44, regarding its role in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, decided to continue to promote the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, bearing in mind the need to respect the thematic unity of each of the conferences and the interlinkages between them, and welcomed the progress made in their review of their working methods by several functional commissions and subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council during their 2006 sessions. The Council also decided to replace the individual joint bureau meetings with one meeting of the chairs of the functional commissions and the Economic and Social Council to be held at the beginning of each calendar year, making use of teleconferencing whenever possible.

Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

Methods of work

2. In preparation for its 36th meeting in 2005, and in compliance with the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Bureau of the Statistical Commission conducted a detailed review of the working methods of the Commission (E/CN.3/2005/2). The Commission took note of the suggestions made by the Bureau and implemented some procedures on a trial basis during the thirty-sixth session. It further analysed the experiences and took them into account in the preparation for the thirty-seventh session (E/CN.3/2006/2). The Commission has found the procedures satisfactory and it is continuing to implement them.

Meeting of the Chairs of the functional Commissions

3. The Economic and Social Council has invited the Chairs of all functional commissions to a meeting to be held on 15 January 2007. The Statistical Commission will be represented at the meeting by its chair, Mr. Calvillo Vives (Mexico).

Development indicators

4. Ever since the Economic and Social Council invited the Statistical Commission to serve as the intergovernmental focal point for the review of indicators used by the United Nations system for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (see Council resolutions 1999/55 and 2000/27), the Commission has been discussing the technical aspects of development indicators annually.

5. At its current session, the Commission is considering a report of the Secretary-General describing the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators in 2006 in the following areas: improvement of

coverage, transparency and reporting for all indicators as presented in the database on all Millennium Development Goals; review of methodologies related to the agreed indicators; coordination of data collection at the global level; coordination and support to countries in the compilation and analysis of indicators at the national level; and preparation of the yearly analysis and reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2007/13).

II. Strengthening statistical capacity

Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

6. The Economic and Social Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution on strengthening statistical capacity put forward by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-seventh session, without further change, as its resolution 2006/6. The resolution calls on various actors to undertake specific actions with the objective of strengthening national statistical capacity.

Actions taken and proposed by the Commission and the Division

7. At its current session, the Commission is considering a report (E/CN.3/2007/12), in accordance with its request to the Secretary-General, made at its thirty-seventh session to report on the implementation of the resolution on strengthening statistical capacity, adopted by the Economic and Social Council, in July 2006. The report provides an overview of the work undertaken in 2006 by the Statistics Division and by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity

III. The 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses

Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

8. In its resolution 2006/6, the Economic and Social Council also recalled its resolution 2005/13 of 22 July 2005, in which it noted the critical importance of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses to meeting data needs for the follow-up activities to the international conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit.

Actions taken and proposed by the Commission and the Division

9. At its current session, the Commission is considering a report (E/CN.3/2007/3) of the Secretary-General summarizing activities completed in response to the requests made by the Commission with regard to the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The report also briefs the Commission on the finalization of the revision and update of the United Nations

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses[1] and the coordination with regional activities in the preparation for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses.

IV. Mainstreaming gender perspectives

Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

10. In its resolution 2006/36, the Council, reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 7 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004 and 2005/31 of 26 July 2005 and reaffirming also the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit, noted with appreciation the progress and continued efforts made by entities of the United Nations system to address gaps between policy and practice in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their respective fields of work, including through the development of training, methodologies and tools.

11. In its resolution 2006/9, the Council decided that each year the Commission on the Status of Women would discuss ways and means to accelerate implementation of the previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme through: (a) an interactive expert panel to identify key policy initiatives in order to accelerate their implementation; and (b) an interactive expert panel on capacity-building on gender mainstreaming in relation to the priority theme, based on an exchange of national and regional experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, with the participation of technical experts and statisticians. The Council further decided that each year the Commission on the Status of Women would evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme from a previous session through an interactive dialogue among all States and observers to identify means to accelerate their implementation, focusing on national and regional activities in support of the implementation of the agreed conclusions, including, where appropriate, supported by reliable statistics, sex-disaggregated data and other quantitative and qualitative information to illustrate monitoring and reporting, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on the priority theme including proposals for possible indicators, elaborated in cooperation with the Statistical Commission, to measure progress in implementation with regard to the priority theme.

Actions taken and proposed by the Commission and the Division

12. Gender mainstreaming is reflected in the range of development indicators considered by the Commission in the context of follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration and United Nations conferences and summits, which is covered under item 3 (k) of the provisional agenda of the current session. The Division is responsible for coordinating the preparation of statistics for the

[1] Statistical Papers, No. 67/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8).

Millennium Development Goal indicators. The database on such indicators maintained by the Division contains data broken down by sex to the extent possible.

13. Members of the Statistical Commission have in the past participated in joint panel discussions with the Commission on the Status of Women, taking advantage of the fact that both Commissions are in session simultaneously. A joint panel discussion is again tentatively planned for noon on Thursday, 1 March 2007. The priority theme for the 2007 session of the Commission on the Status of Women is "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child". The planned theme for 2008 is "Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women". The Bureau of the Statistical Commission will work with the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women to elaborate practical proposals on how cooperation between the two Commissions with respect to the elaboration of possible indicators can be organized.

14. Another relevant statistical activity is the publication entitled *Progress of the World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*, which was disseminated at the end of 2005 by the Statistics Division. The publication highlights the availability of gender statistics and assesses progress made in the area over the last 30 years (available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/ww2005_pub/English/WW2005_text_complete_BW.pdf).

V. Reform of the Economic and Social Council

15. The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, recalled the 2005 World Summit Outcome; recalled also its resolutions 45/264, 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 59/250 and 60/265; recalled further its resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005); reaffirmed the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council and recognized the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals; reaffirmed also the commitments to and emphasized the need to fully implement the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields; reiterated that the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus promote the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular, resolutions 50/227 and 57/270 B; decided that the Economic and Social Council should hold annual ministerial-level substantive reviews as part of its high-level segment and also decided that such reviews should be conducted by means of a cross-sectoral

approach focusing on thematic issues common to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, review progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of those conferences and summits and their follow-up processes and assess its impact on the achievement of the goals and targets of the conferences and summits; and in this regard: (a) recommended that such reviews provide an opportunity for countries to make voluntary national presentations; (b) requested the Council to urge the functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies and follow-up mechanisms, as appropriate, to contribute, in accordance with their mandates taking into account their specificity, to the assessment; (c) recommended that the Council establish a multi-year programme of work for the ministerial-level substantive reviews; and (d) invited the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute, within their respective mandates, to the consideration by the Economic and Social Council.

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Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2008-2009, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Statistical Commission in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.[1] The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, decided that the programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles would be identical to the biennial programme plan. In this connection, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/235 has approved the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, which has incorporated the programme narrative, namely the objectives, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement, of the statistics subprogramme.

2. The draft programme of work, which includes information on outputs, has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 9 (Economic and social affairs) of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

3. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and review the proposed outputs to be included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, which will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

* E/CN.3/2007/1.
[1] ST/SGB/2000/8.

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Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Objectives

To advance the global statistical system in order to produce high quality, easily accessible comparable national statistics for policymakers and other users at the national and international levels.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened global statistical system, with more active participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators	(a) (i) Increased number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission and its workshops, expert group meetings and seminars (ii) Increased number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators
(b) Better and broader use by Governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public of statistical data and technical guidelines produced by the subprogramme	(b) (i) Increased percentage of requests for statistical data satisfied (ii) Increased percentage of visits to the Statistics Division website
(c) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields to produce quality data for policymakers and the public in general	(c) Increased percentage of participants utilizing knowledge obtained at training workshops

External factors

Assuming that national statistical offices will have the necessary resources and capacity, it is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments.

Outputs

During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Fifth Committee on the scale of assessments (20);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Background documents and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Fifth Committee (2);

(ii) Committee on Contributions:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Committee on Contributions (70);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports and background papers and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Committee on Contributions (2);

(iii) Statistical Commission:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions of the Statistical Commission (14);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the Statistical Commission. The Statistical Commission will decide on the exact topics at its 2007 session (27);

(iv) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (12); the eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (10); and the ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (10);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Report on the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (1); report on the eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (1); and report on the ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas;

(v) Ad hoc expert groups:

Expert group meetings on: population and housing censuses (1); international migration (1); review of progress in gender statistics (1); vital statistics system (1); national accounts (1); revised recommendations of distributive trade statistics (1); revised recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics (1); international economic and social classifications (1); environment statistics (1); technical sub-group meeting on classifications (1); dissemination policies (1); inter-agency and expert meetings on Millennium Development Goals indicators and development statistics (4);

(b) Other substantive outputs:

(i) Recurrent publications:

- *Demographic Yearbook*, 2006 and 2007 editions (print) (2);
- *Demographic Yearbook*, special topic (2);
- *Vital Statistics Report* (4);
- Website on demographic and social statistics, quarterly update (8);
- Website on social indicators, half-yearly update (4);
- Website on vital statistics, monthly update (24);
- *National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables*, 2005 and 2006 editions (print) (2);
- *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates*, 2005 and 2006 editions (print) (2);
- Newsletter on national accounts (4);
- Website on national accounts, annual update (2);
- *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook* (2);
- Website on industry statistics, annual update (2);
- *Energy Statistics Yearbook*, 2006 and 2007 editions (print) (2);
- *Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles*, 2006 and 2007 (print) (2);
- Energy statistics online database (1);
- Newsletter on energy statistics (4);
- Website on energy statistics, annual update (2);
- *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*, vols. I and II (print) (2);
- Newsletter of international trade statistics (4);
- Newsletter on international merchandise trade statistics (8);
- An online annex to the *Yearbook of International Trade Statistics*, vols. I and II (2008 and 2009)
- Website on international trade statistics (2);
- Comtrade databases on international merchandise trade statistics (Internet annual update) (2);
- Services trade database on statistics of international trade in services (Internet) (2);
- Newsletter of the task force on statistics of international trade in services (4);
- Website of the task force on statistics of international trade in services, annual update (2);

- Environmental country profiles, 2008 and 2009 (2);
- Newsletter on environment statistics (4);
- Website on environment statistics, annual update (2);
- Newsletter on environment-economic accounting (2);
- Website on environmental accounting, annual update (2);
- Website on good practices in official statistics, annual update (2);
- Website on methodological work, annual update (2);
- Website on citygroups, annual update (2);
- Newsletter on classifications (4);
- Website on classifications, annual update (2);
- *Statistical Yearbook*, 2008 and 2009 editions (print) (2);
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, 2008-2009 (print and Internet) (48);
- *World Statistics in Brief*, 2008 and 2009 editions (print and Internet) (4);
- Millennium Development Goals report and statistical annex for the Office of the Secretary-General (2);
- Millennium Development Goals indicators database, update (2);
- Glossy report on the Millennium Development Goals (2);
- Millennium Development Goals information (2);
- Website on the Millennium Development Goals (2);
- Website on the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators (2);
- United Nations Statistics Division Internet homepage, quarterly update (8);
- Website of the Statistics Division publications archive (2);
- Website of the Common Database, quarterly update (8);
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names information bulletin (3);
- Website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, annual update (2);
- Website on Statistical Commission, annual update (2);
- Website on Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (2);
- Website on technical cooperation (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications:

- *Handbook on Collection of Economic Characteristics in Population Censuses* (1);
- *International Classification of Activities in Time-Use Surveys* (print and Internet) (2);
- *Handbook on International Migration Statistics* (1);
- *Manual on Compilation of Gender Information* (1);
- *Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics System*, Revision 3 (1);
- *1993 System of National Accounts*, Rev.1 (1);
- *Revised Energy Statistics Manual: Definitions, units of measure and conversion factors* (1);
- *Manual on Revised International Recommendations of Distributive Trade Statistics* (1);
- *National Practices in Compilation and Dissemination of Distributive Trade Statistics* (1);
- *Distributive Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual* (1);
- *Indices of Distributive Trade: A Handbook of Good Practices* (1);
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (1);
- Correlation tables between Harmonized System 2002 and Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 4 (1);
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of statistics in international trade in services (1);
- Updated *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* (1);
- *Manual on International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics* (1);
- *National Practices in Statistical Business Register* (1);
- *National Practices in Economic Census* (1);
- *Manual on the Development of Environment Statistics* (1);
- Recommendations on metadata for environment statistics (1);
- *Handbook on Statistical Organization*, Revision 4 (1);
- *Handbook on Millennium Development Goal Indicators* (1);

(iii) Technical material:

- Development and maintenance of statistical databases for the collection, processing, printing and dissemination of statistical data in the areas of environment statistics, energy statistics,

commodity production statistics, index numbers of industrial production, national accounts, demographic statistics, international trade statistics and classifications (2);

- Standardized statistical data and metadata exchange collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Bank for International Settlements and others in an inter-agency working group (2);
- MDG indicators database: technical development and maintenance, and documentation and training (2);
- Standardized statistical data metadata exchange, coordination with relevant agencies within the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators for the development of statistical data metadata exchange on development indicators (2);
- Responses to ad hoc requests from Member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods, as well as national practices, in the aforementioned fields of statistics;
- Updated documentation on databases maintenance and revised training material (2);

(iv) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings:

- Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (4);
- Meetings of Cluster 10, Statistics, EC-ESA (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (Regular budget/extrabudgetary)[a]

(i) Advisory services (on government request) in statistics and statistical data processing to assist in the enhancement of national capabilities in the statistical offices of developing countries (2);

(ii) Training workshops aimed at capacity-building in statistics for developing countries in various areas of statistics (2);

(iii) Fellowships, short-term training, study tours and on-the-job training for national statisticians from developing countries to upgrade and strengthen their knowledge and skills in the area of statistics and to develop regional and international networks; as well as in the area of geographic information systems (2);

(iv) Provision of technical services to Member States and regional and interregional projects and training to assist developing countries in strengthening national capabilities in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics (2).

[a] Outputs (i) to (iv) are required to support specific programmes and priorities for developing statistical capacity-building, such as censuses, surveys of various kinds, environment statistics, analytical reporting, as is done with MDG indicators of various kinds, and collaboration with international funds, agencies and programmes in achieving coordinated national statistical programmes.

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Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission

Draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission, 2007-2010

Note by the Secretary-General

In compliance with a request contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51 of 29 July 1999, a proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission is set out below. Reflecting comments from members and observers of the Commission and a review of its workplans by the United Nations Statistics Division, it constitutes a revision of the multi-year programme of work for 2006-2009 (E/CN.3/2006/31) considered by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

* E/CN.3/2007/1.

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Proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission, 2007-2010

Agenda item[a]	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
1. Demographic and social statistics				
(a) Population and housing censuses	X		X	
(b) Human settlements statistics		X		
(c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (city group)		X		X
(d) Health statistics	X	X	X	X
(e) Social statistics		X		X
(f) Poverty statistics			X	
(g) Education statistics	X		X	
(h) Statistics of drugs and drug use		X		
(i) Washington Group on Disability Measurement (city group)	X		X	
(j) Migration statistics	X		X	
2. Economic statistics				
(a) National accounts	X	X	X	X
(b) Agricultural statistics	X			
(c) Industrial statistics	X			
(d) Roundtable on Business Survey Frames (city group)		X		X
(e) Energy statistics	X		X	
(f) Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (city group)	X		X	
(g) Distributive trade statistics	X		X	
(h) International merchandise trade statistics		X		X
(i) Statistics of international trade in services		X	X	
(j) Statistics of services		X		X
(k) Information and communication technologies statistics	X		X	
(l) Tourism statistics		X	X	
(m) Finance statistics	X			X
(n) International Comparison Programme	X	X	X	X
(o) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (city group)		X	X	
(p) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics	X		X	
(q) Statistics of science and technology		X		
(r) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (city group)		X		X
(s) Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (city group)		X		X
(t) Integrated economic statistics	X	X		
(u) Short-term economic indicators		X		
3. Natural resources and environment statistics				
(a) Environment statistics		X		X
(b) Environmental accounting	X		X	
(c) London Group on Environmental Accounting	X		X	

Agenda item[a]	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
4. Activities not classified by field				
(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes	X	X	X	X
(b) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)	X	X	X	X
(c) Management issues in national statistical offices	X			
(d) Statistics of human development		X		
(e) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics			X	
(f) International economic and social classifications	X	X		X
(g) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata	X		X	
(h) Presentation of statistical data and metadata			X	
(i) Coordination of ongoing methodological work		X		
(j) Statistical capacity-building	X	X	X	X
(k) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division		X		
(l) Development indicators	X	X	X	X
(m) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions	X	X	X	X
(n) Working methods of the Statistical Commission			X	
(o) Principles governing international statistical activities		X		
Total number of items	**26**	**29**	**26**	**18**

[a] The order of the agenda items is based on the order of items in the Classification of Statistics and Statistical Activities (document SA/2001/9 of 16 August 2001, annex I) approved by the former Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at its thirty-third session, held in Madrid from 14 to 16 September 1999.

Programme reviews

2003: Statistics of services

2004: Social statistics

2005: Energy statistics

2006: Industrial statistics

2007: Education statistics

2008: Employment statistics (proposed)